

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6641

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, VS, CA

SUBJECT: LT. GEN, DANG VAN QUANG

SUMMARY: SUBJECT OF GEN. QUANG CONTINUES TO GET HEADLINES IN CANADIAN PRESS AND ATTENTION FROM MP, WITH EMPHASIS SHIFTING TO ALLEGED U.S. REFUSAL TO PERMIT QUANG'S RETURN TO U.S. AND CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN BY GOC TO SENDING QUANG TO TAIWAN, WITH U.S. ALLEGEDLY HAVING INDICATED WILLINGNESS ACT AS GO-BETWEEN FOR SUCH PURPOSE. END SUMMARY.

1. TORONTO STAR JUNE 3 CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY BRUCE GARVEY HEADLINED "OTTAWA CONSIDERS SHIPPING GEN. QUANG TO TAIWAN." QUANG MOVE TO TAIWAN VOLUNTARLY OR BY DEPORTATION REPORTEDLY BEING CONSIDERED BY GOC AS ALTERNATIVE TO LETTING HIM STAY IN CANADA OR RETURNING HIM TO "CERTAIN DEATH IN SAIGON." GARVEY CLAIMS QUANG "ARRIVED IN CANADA FROM THE UNITED STATES SHORTLY AFTER HE TELEPHONED A SENIOR CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY CONTACT AND REPORTED THAT HE FEARED ASSASSINATION BY OTHER VIETNAMESE IN A U.S. REFUGEE CAMP." GARVEY DESCRIBED U.S. ATTITUDE AS FOLLOWS: "ONE THING IS CERTAIN--THE U.S. WON'T TAKE HIM BACK. 'HE'S YOUR PROBLEM NOW--NOT OURS.' A RELIABLE U.S. SOURCE SAID YESTERDAY. 'THERE WAS BOUND TO BE A GOOD

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PERCENTAGE OF QUESTIONABLE PEOPLE COMING OUT OF VIETNAM.

WE'VE GOT OUR FAIR SHARE--AND IT LOOKS AS THOUGH YOU'VE GOT ONE, TOO, MAYBE YOU CAN FIND SOMEONE WHO WILL TAKE HIM OFF YOUR HANDS.' THE U.S. IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HAS VETOED QUANG'S RETURN TO THE U.S. BUT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID THE U.S. MIGHT USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH TAIWAN TO ACCEPT QUANG."

2. MP DEREK BLACKBURN (NDP) WAS QUOTED IN ARTICLE AS STATING TO STAR THAT "THE IMMIGRATION MINISTER IS PROBABLY HOPING LIKE HELL THAT HE' LEAVE OF HIS OWN VOLITION. BUT IF HE WENT BACK TO SAIGON HE WOULDN'T LAST A DAY." BLACKBURN FELT THAT "ONCE QUANG CASE IS DISPOSED OF, SCORES OF OTHER SUSPECT VIETNAMESE IN CANADA--MANY IN MONTREAL--WILL BE FORGOTTEN," LATER ADDING THAT "IF WE DON'T ACT WE COULD BECOME A DUMPING GROUND. I DON'T SEE ANY WAY WE CAN KEEP HIM." CONCERNING HOW QUANG GAINED ADMISSION TO CANADA, BLACKBURN SPECULATED "EITHER THE GOVERNMENT WAS INCREDIBLY STUPID FOR NOT KNOWING WHO HE WAS OR SOMEBODY BOWED TO PRESSURE FROM THE AMERICANS."

3. GARVEY RETURNED TO SUBJECT IN STAR JUNE 4 QUOTING "A WASHINGTON SOURCE" AS STATING QUANG WAS "MAKING MONEY HAND OVER FIST," AND ASCRIBING TO "A U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL" DESCRIPTION OF QUANG AS "THE EPITOME OF EVERYTHING THAT WAS WRONG IN SOUTH VIET NAM." ARTICLE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT MATERIAL SUPPLIED GOC BY USG INDICATED "THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE QUANG WAS INVOLVED IN POLITICAL TERRORISM OR MURDER." ARTICLE ADDED THAT "U.S. HAS INDICATED THAT IT WILL NOT TAKE THE GENERAL BACK ACROSS THE AMERICA BORDER." BUT ADDS THAT "U.S. SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD BE WILLING TO ACT AS GO-BETWEEN IN ANY DISCUSSIONS ABOUT QUANG'S FUTURE RESIDENCE IN TAIWAN." GARVEY CLAIMS THAT CONVINCING QUANG TO GO TO TAIWAN PRESENTS PROBLEM IN THAT THIEU FLED THERE BEFORE FALL OF SAIGON LEAVING QUANG AND OTHERS TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES WHICH HAS CREATED BITTER RESENTMENT.

4. COMMENT: NEITHER GARVEY NOR BLACKBURN (WHO RAISED SUBJECT IN COMMONS AGAIN JUNE 4 AND GOT NONCOMMITTAL RESPONSE) SEEMS TO BE TIRING OF SUBJECT. EXTAFF IS RESPONDING TO QUERIES BY DENYING THAT USG HAS REFUSED UNCLASSIFIED

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PERMIT QUANG TO RETURN TO U.S. AND HAS NOT, IN FACT, BEEN ASKED TO DO SO. ONLY GOC REQUEST TO U.S. IN CASE WAS FOR AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON QUANG WHICH WAS PROMPTLY SUPPLIED.
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